THE PULSE

NEWS OF THE NEW ENGLAND DEACONESS HOSPITAL

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SKIPPER

Every so often a little beagle named Skipper comes to the Cancer Research Institute at the New England Deaconess Hospital to be treated with radioactive iodine for cancer of the thyroid — a disease extremely rare in dogs. This little dog, the first in medical history to receive radioactive iodine treatment for this type of disease, comes to the Deaconess like a regular clinical out-patient. His injection to destroy cancerous thyroid tissue takes only a few minutes. After a few days' observation he returns home with his owners, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bowman of South Weymouth, Massachusetts. Skipper was referred to the Deaconess by his doctors at the Angell Memorial Hospital in Boston who first discovered he had an inoperable thyroid cancer.

The iodine used for his injection comes to the Deaconess from the Atomic Energy Plant at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and must be used within forty-eight hours of its arrival. The same sterile techniques are used with Skipper as with human patients. The doctor who gives him his radioactive iodine wears a lead-lined apron and gloves and the hypodermic syringe is covered with a lead shield. Skipper sits on a small table in the isotope delivery room and receives his injection in the right front leg.

Last month he caught a ground hog after his treatment!

Skipper arrives at the Cancer Research Institute and is greeted by Barbara Sullivan, Research Technician and Dr. Bradley E. Copeland, Associate Pathologist

CONSTRUCTION NEWS

Construction of the new building has been temporarily suspended except for the installation of some plumbing, electrical, heating, and ventilating work in the sub-basement. The principal cause for the delay is the difficulty in procuring the structural steel for the frame of the superstructure.

Shipments of steel should be received during the latter part of October and in early November, at which time the project will again proceed in full force. While these delivery dates will necessitate winter construction, present-day methods and equipment will make it possible to construct the frame, floor, and roof systems and masonry walls at a normal rate of progress. Under the above conditions, substantial completion of the building should be accomplished during the winter of 1952.

Construction at the site will not be entirely suspended, however, for we hope to start work on the extension of the existing boiler plant located in the basement of Deaconess. This work will require the removal of part of the concrete driveway at the rear of Deaconess, as the extension, approximately 25 feet deep, will be located under the driveway. When completed, the roof of the new portion of the boiler room will form the surface of the driveway.

It is expected that the work should start this month and that it will be completely closed in by the first of November. During the construction period some inconvenience will be experienced due to the closing off of the Pilgrim Road end of the driveway but we are sure that all persons affected will understand our problems and cooperate to the fullest extent.

LAURENCE J. PHILLIPS,
Clerk of the Works

THE PULSE

AUGUST, 1951

NEW ENGLAND DEACONESS HOSPITAL
Boston 15, Massachusetts

Under Supervision of the
PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

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DEACONESS HOSPITAL PIONEERS AN 'ATOMIC AGE BUILDING CODE'

So read the title of an article which was written by Mr. W. E. Playfair, feature writer for the *Boston Herald*. The article reads as follows:

"Boston, which has long been one of the world's foremost centers for medical research, has chalked up another 'first.'

"One of its great hospitals, in working out a system of handling radioactive isotopes, has pioneered an 'atomic age building code,' which already is being applied in the planning of 'hot' laboratories elsewhere.

"The hospital is the New England Deaconess and the 'code' was developed to insure safety in the important isotope section of its new Cancer Research Institute. Such improvising was necessary, since no city building department in the country has yet mastered this highly specialized business.

"The 'code' is the brain child of the director of the Institute, Dr. Shields Warren, who is also director of the Atomic Energy Commission division of biology and medicine, and a celebrated pathologist. His original ideas were incorporated in the plans and in the building by the architects, Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch and Abbott.

"To begin with, the laboratory for processing radioactive materials was placed in the basement, where it could be enclosed within 12-inch concrete walls without burdening the building supports. The location also put its radiation well away from such sensitive areas as the photographic laboratories, which are at the extreme far corner of the building.

"Furthermore, the 'hot' laboratory was planned to occupy that part of the building nearest to the sewer line, so that contaminated waste products would not have to be carried through water lines under the floor, but would be taken directly into the sewer.

"And thirdly, instead of one room, the laboratory has two, the so-called 'preparation' and 'issue' compartments. The reason for this is set forth by John Pierce of the firm of architects.

Skipper gets an injection from Dr. Bradley E. Copeland at the Cancer Research Institute. The first dog to ever receive Radioactive Iodine treatment for cancer of the thyroid. Egilda DeAmicis, Junior Scientist and Arthur Osberg, assist.

" 'When the isotopes arrive from the Atomic Energy Commission at Oak Ridge,' he explains, 'they come in highly concentrated form. They are delivered into the preparation room, where they can be stored without danger in a large concrete vault with a two and one-quarter inch lead door.

" 'In the preparation room a limited group of highly skilled people take the extreme concentrations of isotopes and dilute them into solutions of the proper strength for use in treatment of patients or in experiments.

" 'Now comes a truly unique feature of this installation. In the 12-inch concrete wall between the two rooms, we provided storage "pass-through" chambers protected at each side by self-closing lead doors an inch thick These chambers are used for storage of the dilute radioactive solutions prepared in the preparation room.

" 'In the issue room less experienced personnel may safely handle the dilute isotopes, which they receive from the pass-through chambers and dispense as needed. This type of storage we expect will be copied widely by institutions using radioactive materials.'

"One of the great problems in the use of isotopes by hospitals and industrial concerns has been the disposal of the radioactive waste after using. In the past such materials have been buried in the earth or carried out to sea and sunk in places where they would shortly be covered with silt. At the Cancer Research Institute the method of disposal is water dilution.

"The plumbing waste from the 'hot' laboratory is taken into a 25-gallon holding tank where it is well diluted before being released into the sewer. Tests made by Russell F. Cowing, medical nuclear physicist of the Institute staff, show that there is no contamination of the sewer, even at points quite near the building.

" 'There is nothing at all to worry about,' Cowing says. 'When you consider the minute amount of the radioactive material, and the fact that it will already have lost much of its activity, along with the tremendous future dilution when it strikes the main sewer, you will see there is no likelihood of dangerous contamination.'

"The 'code' also takes care of airborne radioactive wastes by having the exhausts from the chemical hoods in the isotope laboratory separated from other exhaust systems so that they may be decontaminated if necessary, but this is an added precaution, since the isotopes used in the Institute are not of the volatile type.

"Everything seems to be taken care of, but Cowing, who is responsible for safety, has the last word.

" 'None of it would be much good without monitoring,' he says. 'You've got to keep track of things.' "

Thirty-One Students Capped — Among them from left to right: Barbara Carlson, Patricia Harris, Mary Ellen Gault, and Phyllis Genson.

CAPPING

The traditional capping ceremony for thirty-one members of the 1954 class of the New England Deaconess Hospital's School of Nursing took place on Friday evening, July 20th in the Elliott P. Joslin Auditorium at the hospital's new Cancer Research Institute.

Dr. Warren F. Cook, Executive Director of the Deaconess, was the principal speaker; the Reverend Mr. Rudolph Samuelson gave the invocation, and Miss Olive Nelson, Director of Nursing, presented caps to the following student nurses:

Jean Frances Akeley	Skowhegan, Maine
Carolyn Virginia Borstel	Portland, Maine
Ruth Elizabeth Brown	Patten, Maine
Barbara J. Carlson	Cambridge
Nancy L. Cate	Ward Hill
Mary Elizabeth Davenport	Lexington
Margaret E. Desjardins	Attleboro
Edith E. Erickson	Lexington
Estelle V. Gade	Westwood
Mary Ellen Gault	Plymouth
Phyllis Ann Genson	West Roxbury
Patricia E. Harris	Windsor, Vermont
Nancy Jane Hero	Westboro
Ann D. Irwin	Whitman
Elizabeth A. Johnston	Waterville, Maine
Helen E. Kelly	Simsbury, Connecticut
Dorothea V. Kohl	Lorton, Virginia
Elinor D. Larson	Lynn
Gloria May Lehtonen	Cuttingsville, Vermont
Marion E. Lorraine	Herkimer, New York
Marilyn H. Moore	Lonsdale, Rhode Island
Doris E. Nicoll	Ballardvale
Dorothy Parker	White River Junction, Vermont
Pricilla L. Paul	South Berwick, Maine
Cynthia A. Phillips	Dunstable
Carol Stearns	Greenbush
Lillian A. Stone	Newport, Rhode Island
Janet L. Thompson	Belmont
Barbara E. Tracy	Calais, Maine
Jean Alice Twiss	Hyde Park, Vermont
Nancy J. Whittall	Weymouth

TO ALL EMPLOYEES

In the July 14th issue of *Collier's* there was an article entitled "Our Fire Trap Hospitals." The author began by describing the fire at St. Anthony Hospital in Effingham, Illinois, where 75 patients and employees lost their lives, and then goes on to condemn the great majority of the hospitals of the country by saying that nine out of ten hospitals are fire risks.

I thought I should write about the Deaconess equipment to meet such emergency. The author of the *Collier's* piece quotes the National Fire Protection Association report on the St. Anthony Hospital, saying that "it had no fire alarm system whatever; that the stairways were open from basement to top; that laundry chutes were constructed of wood and had no sprinklers. Combustible acoustical tile had been used throughout the corridors, and there were no fire stops or fire doors. Anesthesia and oxygen were stored in the basement, and the personnel had never been instructed or drilled in what to do in case of fire."

At the Deaconess we have a modern fire alarm system which was inspected and approved by the Boston Fire Department when installed. This system is directly connected with Boston Fire Headquarters. Each floor is equipped to ring the Fire Department directly, and all personnel of each floor are taught where fire equipment is located and how to use it. Once each week the Supervisor on each floor reports to the Executive Director that she has instructed all the floor personnel in the location and use of fire equipment on her floor.

Each morning at 8:30 the fire alarm system is tested, and it is inspected each month by an employee of the Boston Fire Department. All our laundry chutes are wire plastered and sprinkled. Non-inflammable acoustical tile has been used in all installations. All our stairwells are enclosed; the walls are fire stopped; and the automatic fire doors are equipped with fusible links, which close the doors automatically at high temperatures. Nearby wooden buildings and the laundry are completely sprinkled. Several years ago we moved all our anesthesia and explosive gases from the basement of Deaconess to a specially built non-inflammable outside storage building.

Large placards, strategically placed throughout the hospital, give detailed instructions as to what to do in case of fire. A fire drill is held once a quarter. This drill is directed by a Fire Chief of the Boston Fire Department and is a school to which nurses, orderlies, maintenance men, and others come for instruction in "what to do before the Fire Department arrives." At the suggestion of the Fire Department, we have built a small truck which is equipped with soda acid extinguishers, CO-2 extinguishers, wrenches, fire axes, asbestos blanket, gloves, sand, etc. This truck is ready and moved quickly to the location of each fire drill, ready for action by our maintenance men.

In recent years we have built new fire exits and fire escapes from the Deaconess operating rooms; we have changed all the doors in all buildings to open out; we have provided special egresses from Harris Hall classrooms and from the roof of the Nurses' Home. Two watchmen and an engineer are on duty at night, in addition to other personnel.

In twenty years we have had only three small fires to which the fire department was called, and in each case the fire was extinguished before they arrived.

WARREN F. COOK,
Executive Director

NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE GRANTS

The award of 150 grants totaling $1,416,760 was made this month to aid cancer research in 78 hospitals, universities, and other institutions. Among these grants $12,042 was awarded to Dr. Shields Warren and $11,025 to Dr. Samuel P. Hicks.

GLAD TO SEE YOU!

Administration
Joanne L. Gallo

Chemistry
Granville C. Coggs
Catherine T. O'Neill

Dietary
James M. Barrows
Barbara P. Clifford
Frances A. Gallagher
Mary M. Healey
Mary E. Houghton
Allena E. Luce
John J. Shea
Jean D. Sherry
Mary T. Sullivan
Bernhard E. Turnquist

Housekeeping
Catherine T. Baker
Albert K. Curtis
Michael H. Maguire
William J. McDougall
John B. W. McGarry
John Niland
Paul R. Pelland
George W. Rose

Maintenance
Eve D. Schandelmayer

Nursing
Dorothy R. Burton
Laura Cheney

Pathology
Angelo L. Contieri

Research
Harriet A. Fletcher

Surgery
Charlotte M. Bent
Patricia E. G. Duckett
Shirley E. Lindsey
Harry C. Morgan

X-Ray
Barbara Britten
Sheila M. Cruz
Judith Eames
Shirley L. Sherman

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

Engagements

Miss Audrey Marilyn Peddle, '51 Sr., to Mr. William Bruce Landers of Somerville. Miss Peddle is employed at the Captain John Adams Hospital in Chelsea and Mr. Landers, a graduate of Tufts Electrical Engineering School, is employed at the Doble Engineering Company of Belmont. A September wedding is planned.

Miss Ruth Alice Robbins, '50 Sr., to Mr. Dale William Baldridge of Leominster. Mr. Baldridge, who attended DePauw University, and Miss Robbins plan to be married in the Fall.

Miss Joan Winnifred Kelton, '52 Sr., to Mr. Norman H. Lake of Grafton. Mr. Lake is in the lumber business in Grafton and Chester. A Spring wedding is planned.

Miss Shirley E. Patterson, Laboratory Technician, to Mr. Warren Joy of Boston. Mr. Joy received both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from M.I.T. and is now an aeronautical engineer with the General Electric Corporation, Boston. Miss Patterson and Mr. Joy plan to be married in November.

Weddings

Miss Joan Marian Morison, '51 Jr., to Mr. Bruce Carter Hobson of Taunton on July 7, 1951 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in North Grafton. Mr. and Mrs. Hobson will live in Milford. Mr. Hobson is manager of the Pheasant Farm at Millis.

Miss Marguerite Ruth Byers, '50 Sr., to Mr. Harland Hartley Cramer of Holyoke on July 21, 1951 at the Congregational Church in South Acton. Mr. Cramer is a Dental Technician with the U. S. Navy and is stationed in Bainbridge, Maryland. He and his wife will live in Port Deposit, Maryland.

Births

A son, Marc Winslow, to Dr. and Mrs. Eugene A. White on June 14, 1951. Mrs. White was formerly secretary to the head of the Department of Surgery.

A son, Arthur Kempton, to Mr. and Mrs. Edgar K. Eveleth, Jr., on August 1, 1951. Mr. Eveleth is Head Storeman for the Dietary Department.

WELCOME BACK

Mrs. Eve Dresser Schandelmayer returned to the hospital on July 16th as secretary to Mr. Sabine, head of the Engineering and Maintenance Departments. Mrs. Schandelmayer replaces Mrs. Bonnibel Beard Sack, who resigned after fourteen years' service.

From 1938 to 1948 Mrs. Schandelmayer was connected with the Housekeeping Department. However, she resigned in April 1948, when she was in charge of the department, and moved to Manchester, New Hampshire, where her husband established a new business. However, after her husband's death, Mrs. Shandelmayer returned to Massachusetts. She has started an antique shop at Wareham which she will continue to run. It is a pleasure to have "Miss Dresser," as she is known to many, back again.

NEW DIETITIAN

Miss Barbara P. Clifford joined the staff of the Dietary Department on July thirtieth as a Therapeutic Dietitian. Miss Clifford was graduated in 1950 from the Villa Maria College in Erie, Pennsylvania, and took her dietetic internship at the Massachusetts General Hospital. She is a member of the American Dietetic Association. Miss Clifford's home is in Brockton.

COLONEL ALEXANDER MARBLE

Colonel Alexander Marble spent two weeks in July at Camp Edwards as leader of his unit — the 9950 ORTSU General Hospital. The theories which were studied during the two hour meetings held at the Army Base last Fall and Winter were put into practice. Dr. Marble, in addition to being on our staff is also Clinical Associate in Medicine and Medical Consultant for the Veterans Administration.

EMPLOYEES' HANDBOOK

The new issue of *Glad To See You* will be distributed with the pay checks on September 5th. Additional copies may be obtained in the Personnel Office.